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Braidy Industries CEO Craig T. Bouchard, right, is shown with Gov. Matt Bevin in April after announcing the aluminum company would spend $1.3 billion to build a plant and create more jobs in Eastern Kentucky. ADAM BEAM/AP

‘Skin in the game’

Kentucky lawmakers have high hopes – and unease – about Bevin’s choice to fund aluminum company

Morgan Watkins Louisville Courier Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

ASHLAND, Ky. – City Commissioner Amanda Clark is used to watching people leave her beloved hometown — a riverside community of 21,000 that borders Ohio and West Virginia — because of layoffs and few job opportunities.

“People my age, all we have ever seen is decline here. Our parents lost their jobs at Ashland Oil or AK (Steel) ... and we watched our friends move away so their parents could get a job somewhere else,” said Clark, who is in her early 40s. “And now, as parents, we’re watching our children leave and never come back because there’s not anything here.”

But the recent arrival of a new manufacturing company, Braidy Industries Inc., may help break that pattern with a bold plan to build a $1.3 billion aluminum rolling mill and create more than 500 high-paying jobs.

For Ashland, Clark said, Braidy Industries represents hope.

“Essentially, the attitude is that we’re all just very hopeful

See ALUMINUM, Page 6A

Inside

State‘s effort to invest public money in private businesses flies under the radar. **7A**

One woman’s work in revitalizing Russell

Bailey Loosemore
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Don’t cross paths with Jackie Floyd unless you’ve got time to spare.

The soft-spoken community leader is always ready to discuss the transformation of her west Louisville neighborhood. And after hearing her talk about ongoing positive changes, you may find yourself promising to get involved.

One of Floyd’s greatest abilities is inspiring people to act, say those who’ve worked with her. And as Louisville’s struggling urban neighborhoods continue to rebuild, it’s become a skill that’s desperately needed.

“For whatever reason, some people sometimes feel they can’t make a difference, they’re overwhelmed by the magnitude of what needs to be done,” said Kathleen O’Neil, who’s worked with Floyd on revitalizing the Russell neighborhood.

“... I think Jackie brings it down to a level to demonstrate to people that we all have not only a place in making things happen, but it’s really important that we step up and take that responsibility. It’s going to take each and every person.”

Floyd, 65, never saw herself becoming a community activist.

See RUSSELL, Page 14A

Jackie Floyd leads a Russell neighborhood association meeting.
SCOTT UTTERBACK/COURIER JOURNAL

USA TODAY

Sexual harassment holds pitfalls for Democrats, Republicans as midterm elections approach. **1B**

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